

Bay Area legend Juan Escovedo on music, mentorship, and staying true to your art

Staff Report

Juan Escovedo is an acclaimed percussionist and member of the influential Escovedo family. Throughout his career, Escovedo has shared the stage with musical legends like Prince, his sister Sheila E., Carlos Santana, Lionel Richie, Lou Bega, MC Hammer, Cyndi Lauper, Raphael Saadiq, and “Tony! Toni! Toné!” His contributions to Latin jazz, soul, and R&B have earned him a reputation as one of the finest percussionists of his generation. The launch of Escovedo’s solo career has been met with sold-out shows.

Kimball Hooker recently interviewed Escovedo on an episode of KCAT Public Media’s Kimball Hooker Show, where Escovedo shared insights into

see **MUSIC** pg. 9



Juan Escovedo speaks on KCAT Public Media’s Kimball Hooker Show.

Photo provided by KCAT Public Media

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Girls4Chess: Breaking barriers and building community



Girls4Chess’ second collaboration with the Indian Community Center in Milpitas. Seven of the 13 participants were female.

Photo provided by Neha Sharan

By Brandy Maddox

For young girls, stepping into a chess tournament can feel daunting. The room is filled with competitors, but one thing is noticeably missing—other girls. This was the experience that inspired Saratoga High

School sophomore Neha Sharan to create Girls4Chess, an initiative dedicated to increasing female participation in the game.

“I attended a Bay Area high school chess tournament,” Sharan recalled. “There were about 50-60 students there, and I was the only girl in the tournament.

That day, on coming back from the tournament, I thought I should do something to increase the amount of girls in chess.”

What started as a personal initiative has grown into a nationwide movement, with Girls4Chess now running clubs in multiple schools across the U.S., as well as programs in India and South Africa. The organization’s mission is to provide girls with the opportunity, support, and representation they need to step confidently into the world of chess.

Sharan’s own chess journey began at a young age.

“My first interaction with chess was at the University of Texas, at Dallas Summer Camp in first grade,” she said.

“Growing up in Dallas, Texas, my parents always put me in different summer camps. In this camp, I was one of the only girls in the group. I slowly advanced from beginner to intermediate due to my little prior knowledge of chess. It became really interesting to me, and I soon got a coach and started enrolling in more summer camps.”

Though her parents initially introduced her to the game, it was Sharan’s own love for

see **CHESS** pg. 9

St. Paddy’s Party in the Village, March 15



Saratoga’s favorite leprechaun, Dianne Tuley-Brown, and her famous green cotton candy, on Fourth Street and Big Basin Way at the Saratoga St. Paddy’s Day event.

Photo by Natalie Ladd

By Jill Hunter

On Saturday, March 15 from 2-4 p.m., the Saratoga Village Development Council (SVDC) will once again host a St. Paddy’s Party along Big Basin Way for the children of Saratoga. Bagpipes along with Tina Liddie’s ukulele band will provide the background music, Saratoga resident Deb Conway will give out free green cotton candy, and the “Village Gardeners” along with volunteer residents will hide magical glass rocks throughout the village from Fifth St. to Blaney Plaza.

Ages 8 and above will win a real golden dollar if they find 16 white glass rocks, and ages 0-7 will look for eight magical green rocks in order to win the golden dollar. Children can take home a balloon animal, Saratoga’s Youth Commission will surprise the children with special activities, as will other community groups, and merchants will give out green treats to the children.

The SVDC held its first St. Paddy’s Party over 20 years ago, today we see the parents who grew up in the city coming back to enjoy this fun event

see **PARTY** pg. 7

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GET YOUR TAXES DONE FOR FREE
– AARP TAX-AIDE

THE AARP FOUNDATION TAX-AIDE PROGRAM WILL BE PARTNERING WITH SASCC AGAIN THIS YEAR TO PROVIDE FREE TAX PREPARATION AT THE SARATOGA SENIOR CENTER. AARP TAX-AIDE IS A NATIONWIDE ORGANIZATION OF OVER 25,000 IRS-CERTIFIED VOLUNTEERS. WE HAVE A SPECIAL FOCUS ON TAXPAYERS WHO ARE OVER 50 AND HAVE LOW/MODERATE INCOME. HOWEVER, THE SERVICE IS OPEN AND FREE TO EVERYONE.

THE TAX-AIDE VOLUNTEERS WILL BE ON-SITE AT THE SARATOGA SENIOR CENTER EVERY THURSDAY UNTIL APRIL 17, WITH APPOINTMENTS STARTING AT 8:30 AM. TAXPAYERS WILL BRING THEIR TAX DOCUMENTS TO THE APPOINTMENT. TAX-AIDE VOLUNTEERS WILL PREPARE THE TAX RETURN, REVIEW WITH THE TAXPAYER, AND THEN E-FILE THAT SAME DAY.

OUR VOLUNTEERS ARE TRAINED IN MANY AREAS OF TAX LAW, BUT THERE ARE CERTAIN TAX SITUATIONS THAT ARE OUT OF SCOPE FOR OUR SERVICE.

TO MAKE A TAX-AIDE APPOINTMENT AT SARATOGA SENIOR CENTER, PLEASE CALL THE SASCC TEAM AT (408) 868-1257.

STAY INFORMED – MARCH/APRIL

Cities of Saratoga, Monte Sereno, & Town of Los Gatos Council, Commission & Committee Meetings

Meeting places, Zoom links and call-in information are contained in each respective meeting agenda. Agendas are typically uploaded the Friday before the respective meeting. Please note, all council, commission, and committee meetings are subject to change or cancellation.



City Council:
March 19, April 2, 7 p.m.
View agenda and meeting info at www.saratoga.ca.us/241/City-Council

Finance Advisory Committee:
March 10, April 7, 4 p.m.
View agenda and meeting info at www.saratoga.ca.us/359/Finance-Advisory-Committee

Heritage Preservation Committee: **April 8, 9 a.m.**
View agenda and meeting info at www.saratoga.ca.us/285/Heritage-Preservation-Commission

Check the meeting links prior to each meeting or call your local town clerk for questions.

Saratoga City Clerk's office: (408) 868-1216
Los Gatos Town Clerk's office: (408) 354-6834
Monte Sereno City Clerk's office: (408) 354-7635

Parks and Recreation Commission:
March 11, 6:30
View agenda and meeting info at www.saratoga.ca.us/364/Parks-Recreation-Commission

Planning Commission:
March 12, April 9, 7 p.m.
View agenda and meeting info at www.saratoga.ca.us/357/Planning-Commission

Traffic Safety Commission:
March 13, 6:30 p.m.
View agenda and meeting info at www.saratoga.ca.us/329/Traffic-Safety-Commission

Youth Commission:
March 25, 7 p.m.
View agenda and meeting info at www.saratoga.ca.us/337/Youth-Commission

Mayor's Office Hours at the Saratoga Farmers' Market
April 5, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.



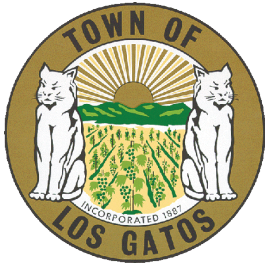
City Council Meetings:
March 18, 7 p.m.
April 1, 15, 7 p.m.

Better Streets Commission
March 13, 7 p.m.

Site & Architectural Commission:
April 2, 7 p.m.

Youth Commission:
March 11, 7 p.m.
April 8, 7 p.m.

View all agendas and meeting information at www.montesereno.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingTypeList.aspx



Development Review Committee: **March 11, 18, 25, April 1, 8, 10 a.m.**
View agenda and meeting info at www.losgatosca.gov/188/Development-Review-Committee

Conceptual Development Advisory Committee:
March 12, April 9, 4 p.m.
View agenda and meeting info at www.losgatosca.gov/200/Conceptual-Development

General Plan Committee:
March 12, April 9, 5:30 p.m.
View agenda and meeting info at www.losgatosca.gov/199/General-Plan-Committee

Historic Preservation Committee: **March 26, 4 p.m.**
View agenda and meeting info at www.losgatosca.gov/190/Historic-Preservation

Planning Commission:
March 12, 26, April 9, 7 p.m.
View agenda and meeting info at www.losgatosca.gov/189/Planning-Commission

Complete Streets and Transportation Commission Meeting:
Cancelled March 13
Special Meeting:
March 27, 4 p.m.
View agenda and meeting info at www.losgatosca.gov/2555/Complete-Streets-Transportation-Commission

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Commission:
March 20, 5 p.m.
View agenda and meeting info at www.losgatosca.gov/2951/Diversity-Equity-and-Inclusion-Commission

Town Council:
March 18, April 1, 7 p.m.
View agenda and meeting info at www.losgatosca.gov/16/Town-Council

Parks and Sustainability Commission: **April 7, 6 p.m.**
View agenda and meeting info at www.losgatosca.gov/282/Parks-and-Sustainability-Commission

Outlook Disclosure:

Successful Aging Solutions & Community Consulting (SASCC) is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, founded in Saratoga in 1979. The Outlook is our monthly publication. We are funded by a mixture of income from services, donations, and grants from community foundations and governmental bodies. The Outlook is distributed monthly to every home in Saratoga, Los Gatos, and Monte Sereno. Our publication, like our organization, is nonpartisan and strives to provide an equal voice to all in the communities we serve. We allow submissions from a variety of entities and individuals. Opinions expressed in The Outlook are not necessarily a reflection of the opinions or mission of SASCC. The views contained herein are intended to be reflective of our community, therefore we encourage all feedback and comments from our readers. We take all feedback seriously and will always do our best to incorporate it into our finished product. To submit feedback or questions to our team, please email outlook@sascc.org. Thank you for reading The Outlook!

Saratoga’s 2025 budget: Planning for a thriving and resilient future

By Belal Aftab,
Saratoga Mayor

Each year, our City Council carefully crafts a budget that balances essential services with emerging challenges. As we move forward in 2025, I want to take a moment to update you on our city’s financial outlook and the discussions underway to ensure Saratoga remains safe, vibrant, and fiscally responsible. Budget season is a time for reflection and planning — it is when we align our financial resources with our community’s needs and priorities. None of the items discussed here are final decisions; they remain under consideration as part of our ongoing budget process.

This process starts with a retreat in January, where we discuss citywide priorities that the Council and city staff have identified. Through a series of meetings and hearings with the City Council and Finance Advisory Committee meetings, we take in recommendations from staff and community feedback before ultimately adopting a budget by the end of June that will ensure Saratoga

continues to thrive while preparing for the financial challenges ahead.

Saratoga operates on a fiscal year that runs from July 1 to June 30. Our city budget is approximately \$30 million for a population of about 31,000 residents. Like all cities in California, Saratoga receives only a small portion of the property taxes collected—just 6.7 cents of every dollar. This means we must be thoughtful in how we allocate resources to maintain essential services while addressing new and ongoing priorities.

I’ll discuss a few priorities and how they’re reflected in our budget within this article.

Traffic safety remains a top concern, particularly for our children. Our Safe Routes to School program, which helps kids walk and bike safely, is being considered for continued investment. We are also implementing traffic calming measures across the city and reviewing a proposal for a new traffic signal at Herriman Avenue to address community concerns.

Saratoga’s neighborhoods are the foundation of our community. To ensure their long-term resilience, we are

discussing options to increase funding for hillside stability projects, which help prevent erosion and landslides. Investing in our neighborhoods will protect homes and infrastructure while preserving the natural beauty that makes Saratoga special.

A dynamic Saratoga benefits everyone. One initiative under discussion is expanding the Secured Community Event Grant Program, which supports projects that bring people together. Additionally, we are looking at ways to enhance our downtown vibrancy and are welcoming new ideas from residents and businesses on how we can improve our shared spaces.

Recent wildfires in California have underscored the importance of preparation. While Saratoga is making efforts to reduce fire risk, it’s important to note that the responsibility for fire prevention lies primarily with the Santa Clara County Fire Department, which receives 14 cents of every dollar in property tax revenue. That said, the City Council is considering allocating an additional \$200,000 toward wildfire prevention efforts to further enhance safety in our community. In January, I visited Congressman Sam Liccardo’s

office in Washington, D.C., to advocate for federal support to ensure Saratoga has the resources to protect our homes and open spaces. (Fun fact: Congressman Liccardo grew up in Saratoga!)

Beyond these priorities, we must also address a significant financial challenge: Saratoga’s structural deficit. Our main sources of revenue—property taxes and service fees—are not keeping pace with rising costs. For example, public safety contracts have increased by nine percent annually, and insurance costs have jumped by 30 percent. These growing expenses require us to make difficult choices.

A city budget is more than just numbers—it is a reflection of our values. While some services are mandated, others provide immense value to our quality of life. At some point, we will need to make strategic decisions to ensure financial stability, whether through proactive cost-saving measures or more urgent adjustments in the future.

As we navigate these financial discussions, community input is critical. Over the next few months,



Saratoga Mayor Belal Aftab

the City Council will consider feedback from residents to help guide our choices. I encourage you to stay engaged—attend meetings (see page 2 of this Outlook), share your thoughts, and be part of the process.

By working together, we can make informed decisions that keep Saratoga strong for years to come. The decisions we make today will shape the Saratoga of tomorrow, ensuring its vibrancy and resilience for future generations.

To get in touch with Mayor Aftab, you can contact him at baftab@saratoga.ca.us.

Gift from Arthur Wang and Christina Qu fuels transformational learning space at West Valley

Staff Report

Silicon Valley philanthropists Arthur Wang and Christina Qu expanded upon their longtime support of West Valley College with a generous donation to support the college’s new Learning Resource Commons.

In recognition of the family’s generous donations totaling \$1.7 million, the West Valley-Mission Community College District will name its newly-renovated facility at West Valley College the Wang & Qu Family Learning Resource Commons.

“We are happy to support West Valley College because of its importance for our community,” said Wang, a Silicon Valley philanthropist. “It provides many opportunities for our students. Our family is proud of our longtime affiliation with the college.”

In 2013, Wang and Qu established the David Wang Educational Endowment to provide a source of annual funding for mental health services and the college’s Disability and Educational Support Program (DESP). In 2017, they funded the Arthur Wang and Christina Qu Science Garden, which serves as an innovative outdoor classroom for the West Valley’s biology department. This latest gift will help fund innovative new programs and establish an endowment for the future needs of the Learning Resource Commons.

“We are incredibly thankful to Arthur Wang and Christina Qu for their steadfast commitment to promoting higher education and continued partnership with West Valley College,” said Dr. Jennifer Taylor-Mendoza, President of West Valley College.

“Their philanthropic giving

represents community and is a potent symbol of the lasting impact they will have on West Valley students, as it provides an innovative, collaborative learning commons space.”

Set to open in January 2026, the Wang and Qu Family Learning Resource Commons will encompass 59,134 square feet of space, offering students access to cutting-edge facilities including an expansive library, digital media center, TV and recording studios, a writing center, a tutoring center, makerspaces, and more—creating an environment where collaboration and academic success can thrive.

The renovation of the Learning Resource Commons is part of West Valley’s broader campus improvements that the Bond Program funds, including Measure C (2012) and Measure W (2018). These initiatives have



Wang & Qu Family.

Photo from West Valley College

provided essential resources to modernize the campus and enhance student services.

“This family’s generosity is a shining example of how philanthropic support can create top-notch experiences for local students,” said Melissa Johns,

Associate Vice Chancellor of Advancement. “Arthur and Christina’s continued commitment strengthens our ability to achieve our mission and encourages others to contribute to student success.”



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FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE EMAIL RAJ KAUR AT RAJ@SASCC.ORG.

NEWS BRIEFS Saratoga



Saratoga

Substance Use Awareness Fair Wednesday, March 12, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Join West Valley for the Substance Use Awareness Fair, a vital event dedicated to substance use prevention and mental health support. Connect with community partners offering valuable resources to help prevent substance misuse and promote well-being.

Special guests Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and the San Jose Police Department will be on-site to share critical information on preventing drunk driving and underage drinking. Don't

miss this opportunity to learn, engage, and take action for a healthier community. Fair will be held in the West Valley College Campus Center.

PIPPIN March 15 – April 5

Mark your calendars for the iconic coming-of-age musical with a dazzling score by Stephen Schwartz (Wicked, Godspell) and the legendary choreography of Bob Fosse. This timeless tale follows young Prince Pippin on his journey to find meaning in life—through battles, politics, and grand adventures—only to discover that true fulfillment lies in life's simple, everyday moments.

Featuring beloved songs like Magic to Do, Corner of the Sky, and Morning Glow, this unforgettable musical blends spectacle, humor, and heart. To get your tickets, visit www.wvlo.org.

Mad Hatter's Tea Sunday, March 23

Step into a world of elegance and charm at Villa Montalvo's Mad Hatter's Tea. Indulge in a delightful afternoon featuring delicate tea sandwiches, savory bites, freshly baked scones, and exquisite petite desserts, all perfectly paired with premium teas. Elevate the experience with fine sparkling wines available for purchase by the



glass or bottle. Don your most fabulous hat and join us for a sophisticated celebration of refined pleasures. Tickets start at \$70, to purchase your tickets, visit www.my.montalvoarts.org/2670.

Mayor's Office Hours at the Saratoga Farmers' Market Saturday, April 5

Join Mayor Belal Aftab for Office Hours at the Saratoga Farmers' Market on the first Saturday of every month from 10 a.m. to Noon. This is a great opportunity to meet the mayor, ask questions, share your thoughts, and discuss issues important to you and the Saratoga community—all in the lively setting of the Farmers' Market. Whether you have concerns, ideas, or simply want to say hello, Mayor Aftab looks forward to connecting with you in person. The Saratoga Farmers' Market, is held in West Valley College's Parking Lot 3.

Discover West Valley College – Open house, Saturday, April 19, 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Explore all that West Valley College has to offer at this free, no-registration event! Connect with current and former students, meet with counselors, and chat with instructors to learn more about academic programs. Discover how you can attend college for free and get all your questions answered in a friendly, welcoming environment. Plus, enjoy free parking in Lots 4, 5, and 6. The Open House will be held in the West Valley College Campus Center. No registration is required.

Open House Agenda

9:45 a.m. – Welcome | Join President Dr. Taylor-Mendoza for a warm welcome, enjoy a free breakfast, and kick off the Open House.

9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. – Academic Fair | Connect with faculty from various academic programs and get your questions answered.

9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. – Support Program Fair | Learn about the student communities and support programs available to help you succeed.

ST. PADDY'S PARTY
IN THE SARATOGA VILLAGE



SATURDAY
MARCH 15, 2-4pm

SEARCH FOR GREEN GOLD OF ANY SIZE,
AND FIND THE MOST AND WIN A PRIZE!

ENJOY GREEN POPCORN AND GREEN TREATS
FROM THE BUSINESSES ALONG THE STREET!

MAKE SURE TO LOOK DOWN AND AROUND
FOR ALL THE PENNIES ON THE GROUND!

LOTS OF FUN ACTIVITIES
FOR THE KIDS!


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DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (SVDC)

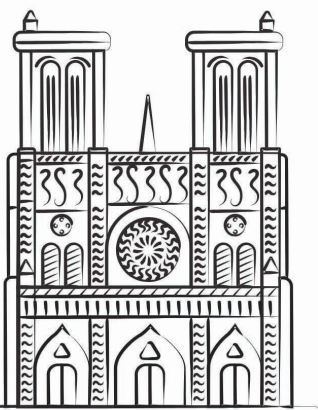


Join Us for
A Special Musical Evening
with

Vincent Dubois
Organist
Cathedral
Notre-Dame in Paris,
France

Thursday, March 20, 2025
7pm
Saint Andrew's Episcopal
Church, Saratoga
13601 Saratoga Ave





Reservations on Eventbrite
More information at:
www.st-andrews-saratoga.org

Suggested Donation per person \$25

Donations will go to the Saint Andrew's
Community Grants Fund for nonprofit
agencies in Santa Clara County to help
with hunger, homelessness, illness,
incarceration and support children

NEWS BRIEFS Los Gatos

Los Gatos

Los Gatos poetry contest

The Los Gatos Annual Poetry Contest is now open for submissions. Organized and judged by Los Gatos Poet Laureate William Ward Butler, the contest welcomes poets of all ages who live or work in Los Gatos. Participants may submit up to five poems on any topic and in any style, provided they are suitable for a broad audience. Prizes will be awarded for first, second, and third place in three age categories: youth (up to 12), teen (13–19), and adult (20 and above), with all finalists invited to a celebratory reading at the Los Gatos Library on April 3 at 4:30 p.m. Winners will receive gift cards to local businesses such as Automobuild, Beyond Text, Dolce Spazio Gelato, Los Gatos Birdwatcher, Los Gatos Meats, and Manresa Bread. The submission deadline is March 15, and all entries must be uploaded as a single PDF to



www.tinyurl.com/42m2majc. For questions, contact William Ward Butler at poet@losgatosca.gov.

St. Patrick's Day Celebration returns to Los Gatos, March 17

Los Gatos' beloved St. Patrick's Day celebration is making a grand return. Chris Benson, Johnny Hannegan, and Campo Di Bocce are teaming up to host the annual event on Monday, March 17.

Following the traditional golf tournament, Johnny Hannegan and the Prince Charles Bagpipe Band will kick off a full day of festivities at Campo Di Bocce. Guests can enjoy a feast prepared by Chris Benson and the Bodacious Barbeque Team, featuring CB Hannegan's famous grill specialties—corned beef and cabbage, three kinds of sausages, shepherd's pie, and all the classic fixings.

Live music will set the perfect Irish atmosphere with performances from Black Irish Band, a high-energy folk quartet celebrating the working-class spirit of America's immigrants, and The Sorry Lot, known for their lively sea shanties and traditional Irish tunes.

The event runs from 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. and will support two great causes—Los Gatos Music in the Park and the Los Gatos-Monte Sereno Police Foundation. Tickets are \$100 each person. You can purchase tickets at www.campodibocce.com/st-pattys-day/.

Join the museum staff for a fascinating tour of the Los Gatos History Hall, featuring a special focus on the Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad, the beloved 1/3 scale steam engine that has delighted visitors at Oak Meadow Park for generations.

This event is made possible by the generous support of NUMU's Board of Directors & Circle Members, the Michael & Alyce Parsons Art Endowment, Peggy & Phil Koen, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the Borgenicht Foundation, the Flick Family, Jan Schwartz & Bob Baden, Ranae DeSantis, The Poncetta Charitable Fund, the Town of Los Gatos, and SVCcreates, in partnership with the County of Santa Clara.

California's New Daylighting Law (AB 413)

A new traffic law went into effect at the start of the year. California's new Daylighting Law (AB 413) will prohibit parking within 20 feet of the approach side of any crosswalk, whether marked or unmarked, even if there is no red curb. This law is designed to improve pedestrian safety by enhancing visibility for both drivers and pedestrians, reducing blind spots caused by parked vehicles near crosswalks.

To increase awareness, the Town of Los Gatos will begin marking red curbs in high-pedestrian-traffic areas, including downtown, near schools, parks, and senior living communities. Drivers should ensure they leave at least 20 feet—approximately the length of a large car—between their vehicle and any crosswalk, as violations or warnings may be issued even in the absence of red curbs. For more information, contact the Town of Los Gatos Parks & Public Works Department at (408) 399-5770 or visit www.losgatosca.gov/2981/California-AB413.

Sound healing meditation, March 20

Experience deep relaxation and rejuvenation at the Sound Healing Meditation (Sound Bath) on Thursday, March 20, from 7-8 p.m. at the History Club of Los Gatos. This immersive meditation is designed to melt away stress, restore inner harmony, and enhance overall well-being. Open to all levels, from beginners to advanced meditators, the session helps clear energy blockages, relieve tension, and cultivate a profound sense of peace.

Doors open at 6 p.m., with tiered ticket options available for early check-in perks, including crystals and palo santo. No late entry will be permitted, so please arrive early to allow time for parking and check-in. Bring a thick yoga mat, blanket, pillows, and anything else to ensure comfort while lying or sitting. Tickets start at \$55.20, to get your tickets, please visit www.tinyurl.com/yxpvtd7d.

Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad history tour, March 28, NUMU

CAMPO DI BOCCHE CHRIS BENSON AND JOHNNY HANNEGAN HOST

20th ST. PATRICK'S DAY 25th

AT Campo di Bocce

MONDAY MARCH 17TH

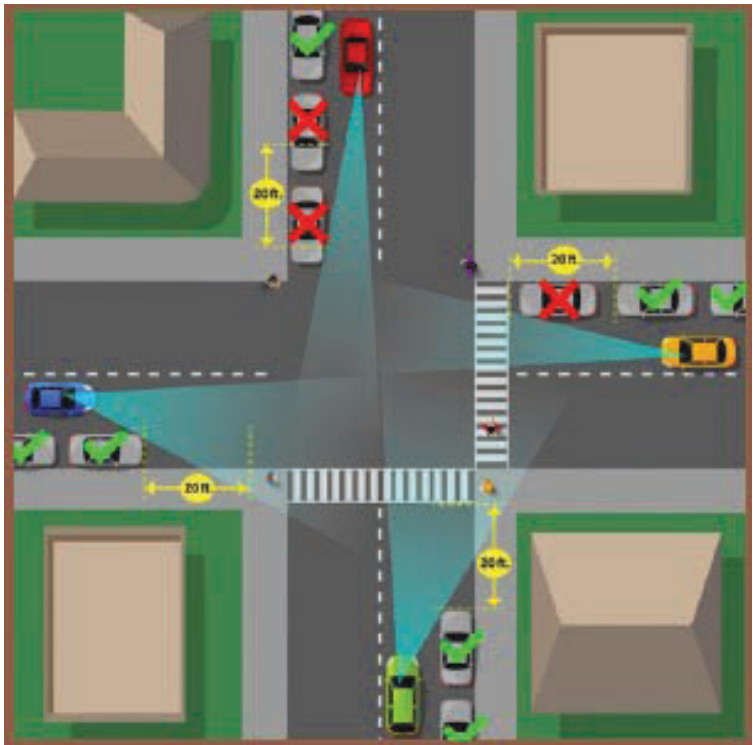
LIVE PERFORMANCES
THE BLACK IRISH
PRINCE CHARLES PIPE BAND
THE SORRY LOT - IRISH DANCING

PURCHASE TICKETS

AGE 11AM - 9PM
21+ FOOD INCLUDED 17

FOR EVENT INFO AND TICKETS WWW.LOSGATOS.EVENTS

565 UNIVERSITY AVE
LOS GATOS, CA 95032



NEWS BRIEFS Santa Clara County

Taste of CAMPBELL



Santa Clara County

2025 Bay Area Travel & Adventure Show, March 15-16, Santa Clara Convention Center

The Bay Area Travel & Adventure Show is set to take place on March 15-16, at the Santa Clara Convention Center, 5001 Great America Parkway, Santa Clara. This highly anticipated event offers attendees a chance to explore thousands of vacation options, access exclusive travel deals, and gain expert insights from industry leaders. Special guest speakers include Rick Steves, Peter Greenberg, and Chris Burkard, who will share tips on traveling smarter, saving money, and discovering hidden

gems around the world. The event will feature destination workshops, expert panels, and exhibitors showcasing top travel opportunities. Show hours are Saturday from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. For tickets and more information, visit www.tinyurl.com/4dvkhmeh.

The Wizard of Oz, Saturday, March 22, 7-9 p.m., Mission City Center for Performing Arts

Follow the Yellow Brick Road to an unforgettable evening as RJJT brings The Wizard of Oz to life on stage. This delightful adaptation of L. Frank Baum's classic tale features all the beloved songs and moments from the iconic 1939 film.

Join Dorothy, Toto, and their enchanting companions as they journey through Oz, encountering good witches, bad witches, talking animals, and magical wonders, all while facing the Wicked Witch of the West. General admission is \$17. Visit www.tinyurl.com/5xdfbup8 to get yours.

For more details, contact the Community Recreation Center at (408) 615-3140 or email PRCustomerServe@SantaClaraCA.gov.

Taste of Campbell 2025, Sunday, March 30, 3-6 p.m.

Get ready for an afternoon of delicious bites, craft beer, and local wines at Taste of Campbell 2025. This exciting event gives you the chance to sample food

from a variety of Campbell restaurants—including past participants featured in the Michelin Guide—while enjoying tastings from local wineries and breweries.

But Taste of Campbell is more than just great food and drinks, this event supports a great cause. Proceeds benefit Campbell CERT, a community emergency response team dedicated to training and equipping citizen first responders for large-scale emergencies. Come enjoy a fantastic afternoon while giving back to the community!

This event will be held at the Campbell Community Center, located at 1 W Campbell Ave, Campbell, CA. Tickets are \$55. To learn more or purchase tickets, visit www.tinyurl.com/293vy69z.

Cupertino Earth and Arbor Day Festival, Saturday, April 5, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Attend the annual Earth and Arbor Day Festival, a fun and educational event for all ages! This interactive festival brings the community together to explore environmental issues and solutions through hands-on activities, live entertainment, and delicious food from local food trucks. With thousands of attendees and numerous partner organizations, it's a fantastic opportunity to celebrate sustainability, learn

about eco-friendly practices, and enjoy a day of family-friendly fun. For more information, visit www.tinyurl.com/ycyxusmn.

2025 Spring Wine Walk - Downtown Campbell, Thursday, April 10, 6 - 9 p.m.

As one of the original Bay Area Wine Walks, now in its 16th year, Downtown Campbell invites you to sip, stroll, and discover over 20+ amazing winemakers in one delightful evening of wine tasting. Your ticket includes a souvenir wine glass and one tasting at each of the 20+ wine stops spread throughout the charming downtown district. Tickets will be on sale soon, so check www.downtowncampbell.com/winewalk back for updates!

Designated drivers and non-drinkers do not need a ticket, making this a perfect event to enjoy with friends—whether you're tasting or simply soaking in the lively atmosphere. The Spring Wine Walk is a fundraiser for the Downtown Campbell Business Association, supporting year-round community events and activities. Come sip, support, and celebrate in Downtown Campbell!



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South Bay Musical Theatre unveils an exciting 2025-2026 season

By Doug Hughes

For more than six decades, South Bay Musical Theatre (SBMT) has brought Broadway-quality productions to the heart of Saratoga. As the company prepares for its 2025-2026 season at the Saratoga Civic Theater, audiences can look forward to a lineup that blends timeless classics with fresh musical experiences.

A season of beloved stories

SBMT’s new season opens with *The Sound of Music* (Sept. 27 – Oct. 18, 2025), the Rodgers & Hammerstein masterpiece that continues to enchant audiences worldwide. Featuring cherished songs like “My Favorite Things” and “Climb Ev’ry Mountain,” this heartwarming story of love, resilience, and family is sure to delight audiences of all generations.

Next, *Little Women* (Jan. 24 – Feb. 14, 2026) brings Louisa May Alcott’s beloved novel to life in a touching musical adaptation. With a soaring score and an inspiring story of

sisterhood and determination, this production offers a fresh yet faithful take on the March sisters’ journey.

And while SBMT isn’t yet able to announce its final production of the season (running May 16 – June 6, 2026), Artistic Director Walter M. Mayes assures audiences that it will be well worth the wait.

“We can’t reveal the title just yet,” he teases, “but what I can say is that it’s a multi-Tony Award-winning show with a phenomenal score. It’s a joyous production that will cap off our season on a high note.”

Festive fun and concert spectacles

This season also marks an exciting change for SBMT’s original concert series, now scheduled for the holiday season. *Let It Show: A Broadway Holiday Celebration* (Dec. 20-21, 2025) will bring the festive spirit to Saratoga, featuring favorite local performers singing beloved holiday classics with a Broadway twist—and culminating in a visit by Santa himself!

In the spring, audiences can experience a rare treat

with a concert presentation of *On The 20th Century* (April 18-19, 2026). This fast-paced, glamorous musical comedy—set aboard a luxury train racing from Chicago to New York—features a sparkling score by Cy Coleman and a witty, whirlwind story full of Broadway charm.

The final bow for 2024-2025: Brigadoon

Before launching into the new season, SBMT will close its current lineup with the magical Lerner & Loewe classic, *Brigadoon* (May 17 – June 7, 2025). This romantic fantasy transports audiences to a mysterious Scottish village that appears only once every hundred years, with a lush score featuring favorites like “Almost Like Being in Love.”

How to get tickets

Season tickets for SBMT’s 2025-2026 season go on sale in April 2025, offering the best prices and first choice of seats. Single tickets will be available starting in July, with prices ranging from \$27 to \$59 (seniors receive a \$2 discount). For more details, visit SouthBayMT.com



or call 408-266-4734.

“As a company that has been performing in Saratoga for more than 60 years, we take great pride in our ongoing partnership with the South Bay Area community,” said Mayes. “Not only does the Saratoga Civic Theater serve as our artistic home, but it also stands as a place where our neighbors come together to celebrate live performance. We’re honored to continue bringing Noteworthy Entertainment to the South Bay, and we look forward to sharing another fantastic season with our audiences.”

Saratoga’s St. Paddy’s Party returns: Music, magic & fun for kids!



Village Gardeners Maureen Wright, Janet Eberhard, Jill Hunter, Fleur Kettman, Judy Coulter, Marilyn Manies and Carol Kummerer get the Saratoga Village ready for St. Patrick’s Day

Photo by Debby Rice, Mercury News

Continued from
PARTY, pg. 1

with their own children. Irish Americans have a long history in celebrating their heritage on St. Patrick’s Day; the term Paddy’s reflects the Irish saint, Padraig.

Brian Berg founded the SVDC and I, Jill Hunter, am chair of the council. The SVDC was designed to host community events for all to enjoy, especially children, and encourage the residents to come to the village to celebrate.

The SVDC has held many monthly events, including: Love Notes in February; St. Paddy’s Party in March; a Pet Parade in April; Heritage Days in May; Sidewalk Sales in June; Saratoga Swings in July, Bollywood in August where Saratoga High School students

teach us how to dance in the Bank of America parking lot, Witchy Walk-A-Bout in October, and the Wreath Project in November, where residents decorate the wreaths along Big Basin for Christmas.

Donations and fundraisers finance these homespun events, along with numerous additions to the village ambiance such as the Welcome sign and bronze plaques on the historic buildings. Fundraisers such as “Wine and Wisteria” at Hakone Gardens, a fashion show at The Foothill Club, and a big garage sale brought in a good deal of money and were designed to increase foot traffic and create a sense of community.

Events are not as numerous these days because of volunteer exhaustion! The SVDC continues to host Love Notes, St. Paddy’s Party, America the Beautiful

(merchants and volunteers decorate the village patriotically), Witchy Walk-A-Bout, and the Wreath Project.

If you’d like to be on the free SVDC email list, in which we tell you the village happenings, or advertise your event on Monday Missives, a list specifically for Saratoga organizations to share their events for free, please send your full name, phone, email, and title to Brian Berg at brianberg@gmail.com and we will add you to the list! Residents who are on the list state that they feel much more connected to the community getting updates with what’s happening.

We hope to see you at the St Paddy’s Party! Special thanks to the Saratoga City Council for funding it.

JOIN THE *South Bay* VETERANS CHORUS

Performances at local community events, veteran gatherings, patriotic celebrations

INTERESTED?

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Recapping Wine With Bill:

Recommended wine pairings from Ancora Vino’s Ryan Smith



Ryan Smith, certified sommelier and owner-managing partner of Ancora Vino, on the set of Wine With Bill at KCAT Public Media in Los Gatos.

Staff Report

Who needs a holiday to enjoy turkey, ham, brisket, or prime rib? In a recent episode of Wine with Bill on KCAT Public Media, Bill Reagan interviews Ryan Smith, certified sommelier and owner-managing partner of Ancora Vino, a Los Gatos-based boutique wine shop. Smith

showcased the best wine and food pairings in relation to the holidays, though the principles are relevant year-round. Whether you’re planning a dinner party or simply enjoying a quiet meal at home, dive into this conversation recap to learn how to elevate any occasion.

Versatility of Sparkling Wines
Bubbles aren’t just for toasts

or festivities; they can be a companion to a wide range of appetizers and meals. Ryan: “If you’re going to a party and don’t know exactly what will be served, or if you have a platter full of different flavors and textures at your own event, it’s always nice to start with bubbles. You don’t have to spend a ton of money to get really good

quality. Now, if you want it to have ‘Champagne’ on the label, there is a certain price for that—and Champagnes are wonderful. But you can go to any local wine retailer and ask for something made in the Champagne method—also known as Méthode Champenoise or the Traditional Method. These terms refer to the winemaking process used for Champagne, which is different from what you see in things like Prosecco or Pét-Nat, and gives the wine a different character. Say you love Champagne but don’t want to break the bank—maybe you’re having a party and need a few bottles, or you just don’t want to spend \$40–\$50 per bottle. You can look for wines made in that style. A great option is Cava, which is a sparkling wine from Spain. If the label says ‘Cava’ or ‘Corpinnat,’ it’s made like Champagne. Wonderful sparkling wine. Another option is Italian sparkling wines from Trentino and Franciacorta—both regions produce fantastic Champagne-style wines without the hefty price tag. And people like to dismiss Prosecco, but there’s a lot of great Prosecco out there! It’s light, fresh, and fruity. You can find dry versions—just look for the word Brut on the label, which means it’s dry and won’t have that overly sweet Prosecco taste. There are plenty of wonderful options around the \$20 price point.

Anything that’s been fried or baked, anything that has a crispness to it—a pastry crust—is really going to benefit from pairing with a sparkling wine... Fried potatoes and sparkling wine is one of the best pairings out there.”

Perfect Pairings for Festive Main Courses

Before getting into the big three: turkey, ham, and prime rib, Smith told the story of how his partner’s mother made a traditional Hanukkah meal so delectable that they decided to make it again a week later for Christmas, and have had it every year since. He called the pairing one of the best he’s ever had: coffee-rubbed, braised brisket with L’Arco Arcum—one of Ancora Vino’s best sellers from Italy’s Veneto region. Brisket: “It’s been cooked for a long time to get this complex deep flavor profile, so you want something that’s full-bodied that has some savoriness to it, and also has some fruit. Unlike eating a steak or a prime rib, you don’t need a wine with a lot of tannins to it like a Cabernet Sauvignon. So something like a nice big Zinfandel, an Italian wine like a Valpolicella Ripasso—those are perfect pairings. If you have some older Cabernets that have been sitting in the cellar for a long time, great dish to break it out for, because as those wines sit and age and mature, those

tannins will actually soften up and they won’t be as dry and astringent.” Turkey: “There’s a reason why on Thanksgiving you do cranberry and turkey together: because those tart red fruit flavors go really well with turkey, so you want to find that in the wine. Two of my absolute favorites for turkey are two light wines made from red grapes that traditionally come from Burgundy, France: Gamay and Pinot Noir. Look for a good Cru Beaujolais [Gamay], and it’s a fantastic pairing with a turkey so it’s light, it’s fresh, a little more savory, a little more herbal than most Pinot Noirs and the tannins are very light, with great acidity. Pinot Noirs can be all over the map—they can be very light, they can be more full bodied. What I’ve picked is a beautiful, well-priced example from one of our greatest local wineries: the Domain Eden, the second label from Mount Eden—probably the most historic producers of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay in North America—right off Mount Eden Road near Stevens Creek Reservoir. This is their 2020 vintage Pinot Noir.” Ham: “Ham can handle a little bit more full-bodied stuff than turkey, so you could do something like a really nice Bordeaux... Something like this Château de Cugat. It’s \$18 a bottle, and you can fool the best Bordeaux lover with this wine; it’s just super super drinkable. You could also do something like a Sangiovese, that’s a wonderful ham wine. I also love Grenache.” Prime Rib: “If you want to go with Cabernet Sauvignon, I recommend going with something that’s a little on the lighter tannic side. I have brought one of my favorites, and somebody that’s well-known to Wine With Bill. This is a local Cabernet Sauvignon from a small producer, “Assiduous Wines,” a winemaker named Keegan Mayo who’s been on the show. This comes from the wonderful Bates Ranch Vineyard right at the foot of Mount Madonna. It’s in a lighter, juicier style. It’s still got all those dark plum, black currant, eucalyptus kind of notes to it, just a little softer flavor profile. Blends from a warmer region like Pasa-Risa where they get those dark fruit flavors, like ripe blackberry, almost like jammy blackberry—I really love that kind of stuff with prime rib. I also really like California Syrah, because Syrah can be made in a lot of different ways like Pinot. They can be very light in body and peppery, and they can be really rich and chocolatey. I like something kind of in between with the prime rib.” Outlook tip: Cut this article out and stick it with your favorite holiday recipe to refer back to at the end of the year. Check out Wine With Bill at kcat.org/winewithbill.

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A teen’s mission to level the chessboard

Continued from
CHESS, pg. 1

chess that kept her going. She also credits a key mentor.

"One tournament director, Rob Jones, made sure all tournaments were free for girls," said Sharan. "This encouraged me to keep coming back and play. This also helped me start the tradition of discounting or giving free entry to girls in chess."

With over 240 tournaments under her belt as both a player and coach, Sharan has seen firsthand how chess cultivates critical thinking, resilience, and confidence in young girls, yet the chess world remains overwhelmingly male-dominated.

"I've found myself the only girl in many chess tournaments," she said. "We want to encourage girls to go out there and play chess,

even if it's male dominated, because the world of chess is for everyone."

To help change the landscape, Girls4Chess provides special incentives for female players.

"We provide discounts for girls, trophies for girls in chess, and sometimes free entry for girls to keep them motivated."

As a tournament organizer, Sharan has directed 17 tournaments, including events at the prestigious Mechanics Institute, and has successfully organized three tournaments at Saratoga High School.

Girls4Chess is also expanding its efforts beyond youth players, incorporating senior chess programs to foster community engagement and lifelong learning. Neha recently began teaching chess at local senior centers, opening new opportunities for

intergenerational connections through the game. While the organization hasn't yet paired young students with older players, she said the idea is on the table for the future.

Middle schooler Acadia H., from Nevada, spoke fondly of her Girls4Chess tournament experience. "It was super fun and a great way to practice chess," said Acadia.

With clubs in Texas, California, and Nevada—and a growing international presence—the initiative is proving that the chessboard has room for everyone, regardless of gender or age.



Neha Sharan after winning 2nd place at a local chess competition. She led Saratoga High School to 3rd place in the school category.



Neha’s first tournament in California, where she was the only girl present, inspiring her to start Girls4Chess. All photos courtesy of Neha Sharan

Kimball and Juan Escovedo hit high notes

Continued from
MUSIC, pg. 1

his life as a musician, how his family shaped his career, and lessons he’s learned along the way. Tune in below.

The Power of Family

Escovedo’s musical journey started by watching his family jam in his living room, including his percussionist father, Pete, who played with the band “Santana.” Escovedo remembers passersby dancing outside, peering into the room’s big windows. In 2024, the block of East 21st Street they lived on was renamed “Escovedo Way” in the family’s honor.

“They started playing with Cal Tjader, Mongo Santamaria, Willie Bobo—all these great musicians. When they started getting their own band together, ‘Escovedo Brothers,’ they were rehearsing at the house. Me and my sister, Sheila, and my brother, Peter Michael—we were young and we just felt the love and the music. It was so easy to pick up what they were doing, because I saw my father happy, playing percussion.

So when they took a break, we just started beating on the drums and playing what we saw them rehearsing. Then, when you show that love, you know, we’d

have the professionals saying, ‘Well, this is the correct way of playing the instruments.’ So then we got better and better. We had our own band together at 15, 16 [years old]. We used to always watch ‘The Jackson 5,’ ‘The Osmonds,’ all the great family bands. We just kept practicing and practicing, then we started playing for family members. When I went to McChesney in Oakland High, we started playing at intermissions and whatever they were doing at the school. We got into it like that. We just helped each other and started to grow and do better.”

Advice for Budding Musicians

“Know what direction you want to go in, like what genre to start with, the love of music, and what you feel. I play a bunch of instruments, but I know my main thing is congas. It used to be bongos, and then timbales, and just the drums. But find your heart—your heart will take you where you want to go. When I play congas, I have this feeling like it’s part of me. You see where you can apply that to other artists.

First you have to find yourself. Don’t let other musicians say, ‘You need to do this,’ because there are a lot of people talking in your ears. But you have to know what you love, and if you

don’t feel like you’re in the right band, then move on to the next one. Find the group of musicians that would take you in and make you develop and be a better musician.

You have to go through a lot of haters, a lot of people that don’t feel you. But it only takes one in that band to say, ‘Man, let’s do something together.’ That can be your co-writer; that could be your musical director. You don’t know where it’s gonna go, but you know when it’s wrong. So I always say that when you know it’s wrong, keep moving ‘till you find your spot. Listen to your heart. Don’t give up. They’ll find you.”

A Lesson From Prince

“When I was working on some songs, we were backstage at one of the concerts, and I said, ‘Prince, I have a song I want you to hear.’ And he goes, ‘Uh, why do you want me to hear it?’ And I said, ‘Well, I want your opinion.’ He goes, ‘My opinion doesn’t matter. It’s what you get out of the song.’ He said, ‘If you do a song that you love, the crowd will follow you.’

I thought about him—he has hits, he knows what’s good. But it took me a minute to understand. [Prince] said, ‘I can say I like it, and I can say, change this or not. But if I tell you that and you don’t

feel it, and you’re going by what I’m telling you, it ain’t gonna work for you. You have to make it to where you love the song. The fans will follow you.’

I took that advice with [my] CD. So everything I did on my CD is what I felt. He said they will follow you, and it worked.”

In November 2021, Escovedo released his solo debut album, “The J,” which secured two sold-out shows in Oakland, and a proclamation of November 8 as “Juan Escovedo Day.” The album brings together top-tier talent, with the first single,

“Angel” featuring El DeBarge and Martin Kember of “Color Me Badd.” Raphael Saadiq and Eddie M each appear on two tracks. Watch all seven music videos on Escovedo’s YouTube channel.

Escovedo will play his annual birthday show at Yoshi’s in Oakland on March 13. Tickets are available at yoshis.com/events. Listen to the whole interview at kcat.org/kimball.



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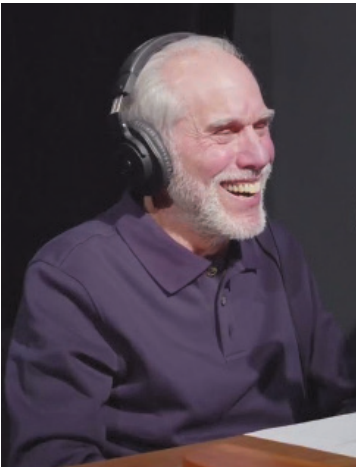
EARLY BIRD SPECIAL



Between the Pages with Lloyd:

Recommended historical fiction

Photo by Susan Q Yin on Unsplash



Lloyd Russell on the set of his KCAT podcast, Lit with Lloyd.
Photo from KCAT TV & Media

By Lloyd Russell

Many of you may know that I’m a big historical fiction fan, and there are a bunch of authors that I read who do a really great job. But I want to focus on one particular author who I mentioned in last month’s article.

As I said then, Renee Rosen is really outstanding. I mentioned that I was half-way through her latest, *Let’s Call Her Barbie*. Well, I finished it, and it immediately became my favorite Rosen, even though you can’t go wrong with any of her books.

I gave you a very brief synopsis of Barbie, but now I

want to expand on that. This book is absolutely fascinating. Ruth Handler, her husband, Elliot, and Harold “Matt” Matson started Mattel Toys in 1945. Everybody knows that the first Barbie hit the toy store shelves in 1959. And make no mistake about it; Mattel has made some very big, popular toys through the years. Just a few examples are: Hot Wheels, Fisher-Price, Matchbox Cars, and Masters of the Universe. But there is no doubt that Barbie tops the list.

How did Ruth come up with the idea? How did Elliot, Jack Ryan (engineer), and Charlotte Johnson (designer) work with Ruth to debut Barbie at the American International Toy Fair in New York City on March 9, 1959? What real-life person was the inspiration for the name? What else did Ruth invent that still benefits a large portion of adults?

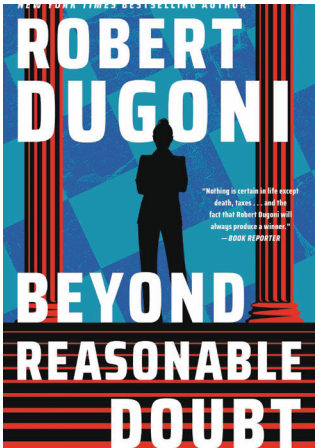
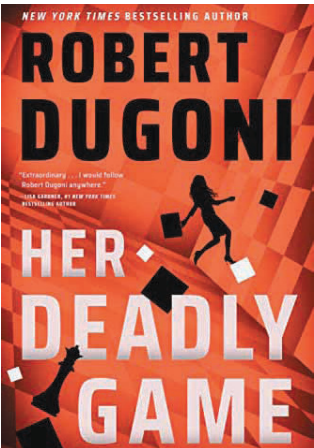
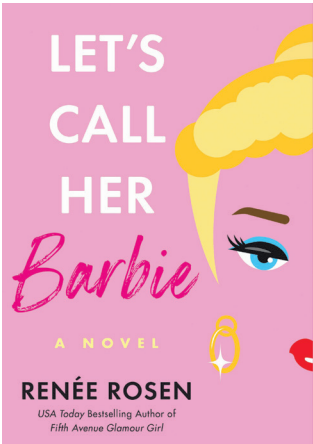
These, and a whole bunch of others, are questions you will have answered in *Let’s Call Her Barbie*. The story had me mesmerized. I not only was personally aware of Barbie as a kid back in 1959, but my wife, Joni, owned the very first generation of Barbie. But you do NOT need to be in my age group to appreciate how it all happened. In fact, over 65 years

later, thanks, in part, to the May 2023 movie, Barbie is still very popular world-wide.

Make sure to read *Let’s Call Her Barbie*. It is a fascinating story, but it will also encourage you to read other Renee Rosen books. You will be happy you did.

I also have a mini-review for you. As you all know, I am also a big Robert Dugoni fan. He’s one of the other authors I have listed that you can count on for a good book, no matter which one you read. And, of course, I reviewed *Hold Strong* back in January (it’s got a rating of 4.73/5 on Goodreads!). But on top of *Hold Strong*, Bob also has the first two books in a new series called *Keera Duggan*.

Keera has recently joined her family’s firm as a criminal defense attorney after spending a number of years as a prosecuting attorney. A bad romantic affair has led to the switch. Both *Her Deadly Game* and *Beyond Reasonable Doubt* have Keera defending clients who are accused of murder. Throw in a very well-known attorney who is Keera’s father, along with Keera’s background as a champion chess player, and you have two very good mystery novels. You simply can’t go wrong with Dugoni.



Here’s the trivia question of the month: In 1926, Agatha Christie disappeared from her home for 11 days, causing an international media frenzy. Where was she eventually discovered?

A. A Cornwall campground;
B. Burgh Island in Devon;

C. A Torquay hotel;
D. A Yorkshire spa
The answer to last month’s question is D. Afghanistan.

Kathak & All That Jazz

A Dancer’s Journey Through Lavani, Kathak, and Flamenco

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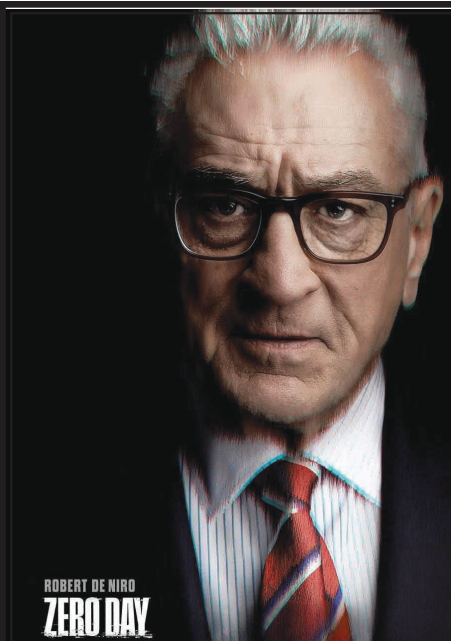


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Zero Day (2025)

In the midst of crisis: how can we discover the truth when it seems that the world is being destroyed by uncontrollable forces? Also, to what extent are conspiracy theories our own inventions or products of our imagination?

TV-MA | TV Mini-series| Conspiracy Thriller, Political Thriller, Drama

Trial by Fire (2018)

The tragic and controversial story of Cameron Todd Willingham, who was sentenced to death in Texas for killing his three children even after scientific evidence and expert testimony bolstered his claims of innocence.

R | 2h 7min | Biography, Drama



Here (2024)

A generational story about families and the special place they inhabit, sharing in love, loss, laughter, and life.

PG-13 | 1h 44min | Drama, Family, Coming-of-age

Venom: The Last Dance (2024)

Eddie Brock and Venom must make a devastating decision as they're pursued by a mysterious military man and alien monsters from Venom's home world.

PG-13 | 1h 50min |Action, Adventure, Superhero, Thriller



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Last Breath

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PG-13 | 1h 33min | Drama, Thriller

Stars: Woody Harrelson, Simu Liu, Finn Cole

Rule Breakers

In a nation where educating girls is rebellion, a visionary woman sparks hope and opposition. Their courage ignites a movement that could transform their nation forever. *Releases March 7.*

PG | 2h | Drama

Stars: Ali Fazal, Nikohl Boosheri, Fahim Fazli



The Alto Knights

Vito Genovese and Frank Costello, a pair of Italian Americans who run two separate crime families in the mid-20th century. Genovese attempted to assassinate Costello in 1957, although Costello retired from the mob. *Releases March 21.*

R | 2h | True Crime, Biography, Drama, History

Stars: Robert De Niro, Cosmo Jarvis, Debra Messing

Snow White

Live-action adaptation of the 1937 Disney animated film 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs'. *Releases March 21*

PG | 1h 50min | Adventure, Family, Fantasy, Musical, Romance

Stars: Rachel Zegler, Gal Gadot, Tituss Burgess



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Audiology Q&A with Marcia Fariss

By Marcia Fariss,
*M. A., F-AAA, Audiologist &
retired Lipreading Instructor
for Foothill College*

The original question posed to the column was: “How do I get my husband to listen to me when I speak to him?” However, just as frequently, the question is, “How do I get my wife to listen to me when I speak to her?”

This has been one of life’s most persistently challenging questions to answer, and it has likely been in existence since humans began uttering their first sounds. Not limited to those living with hearing impaired persons, it is also ubiquitous among normal hearing families. In spite of the following being a frequently proffered “cure” for the problem, it is NOT recommended that “First, you get a 2’ x 4’ board...”

There are several valid techniques that will facilitate communication; however, if the listener is not interested in what the speaker has to say, then the problem is more complex. Such a situation might benefit from the spouses having a “meaningful dialogue” between themselves. If that is not feasible, then perhaps consulting counselors specializing in relationships is worth considering.

Some of the most frequently successful techniques that help improve communication between

- spouses include the following:
1. Get the listener’s attention before beginning a conversation. Calling the person’s name before beginning to converse works well. If the listener doesn’t respond to his or his name, he or she truly might not have heard the speaker. Repeat the person’s name, using a slightly louder voice but do not shout!
 2. It is also important to be in the same room as the speaker. In addition to being in the same room, the speaker should face the listener and provide a clear of his or her face and mouth. That allows the speech to be directed to the listener. It also provides valuable visual cues that will supplement the auditory signals. In other words, allow the listener to lipread as well as have speech signals aimed directly to them.
 3. Another approach is to utilize tactile cues such as tapping the person’s shoulder, hand, or arm prior to addressing them. That usually results in the listener ceasing their current activity and changing his or her focus to the speaker.
 4. Some speakers communicate by using long or

complicated paragraphs. There are others who lecture rather than engage in true conversation. Not only does that frustrate the listener, it often results in them purposely ignoring the speaker entirely. Fewer and more concise sentences presented at a time might well encourage the listener to “tune in” to the person speaking.

No matter the speaking style, humans are social animals and we must develop successful methods of communication with others. That may mean establishing different speaking styles with different people or groups of people.

Q: How often should I have my hearing tested?

If there is no sudden change in hearing or new medical issue, a comprehensive hearing evaluation performed every 12-18 months should be sufficient.

Q: Is hearing in both ears usually the same?

Symmetrical hearing loss is quite common. However, there is often a difference in hearing or word understanding between the two ears. Some causes of asymmetrical hearing loss may include but are not limited to: traumatic head injury, acoustic neuromas, middle ear pathologies (perforated ear drum, fluid in the middle

ear, excessive cerumen, otosclerosis, etc), inner ear dysfunction (Meniere’s Disease, Labyrinthitis, autoimmune inner ear disease), exposure to high noise levels, ototoxic drugs, childhood illness, brain functioning differences, and certain inherited disorders.

Q: Why do hearing aids cost so much?

Not too many years ago, the price of hearing aids was compared to jewelry. In other words, the price compared with manufacturing cost was increased exponentially because hearing aids were considered luxury items. Fortunately today, most people realize that hearing aids are not a luxury item but instead, a necessity to successful communication in our world. The price of hearing aids can vary widely depending on the features, style, quality and manufacturer and sometimes the dispenser.

Over-the-counter hearing aids are generally the least expensive hearing devices. They also have the fewest features, may be of poor quality, provide limited benefit, and are typically sold by untrained personnel. If purchased from a pharmacy or other similar retail source, there is no follow-up available.

Hearing aids fitted and dispensed by audiologists

(persons with their AuD degree) are produced by manufacturers who have devoted years of research and development to the science of hearing and hearing aid technology. Dispensing audiologists understand multiple hearing disorders and are able to explain their implications to the patient and his or her family.

The initial evaluation, counseling and selection of an appropriate hearing instrument require knowledge, experience and time. Also, multiple visits to optimize benefit to the wearer are often required. All that effort is included in the price of the hearing aids.

The bottom line is that although the individual parts of a hearing aid may not cost much, the R&D, professional evaluation, counseling, fitting and follow-up visits take time and expertise. Also, compared with the general world population, the volume of hearing aids sold is quite small. The result is that the price of hearing aids is higher than we might like.

Please feel free to submit your questions to: hear@gizmology.com or call the Senior Center at (408) 868-1257 and your questions will be relayed to the author. There is no such thing as a stupid question so don’t be shy!



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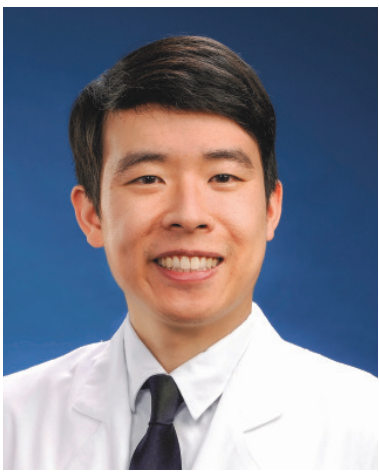
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How to Add Extra Years of Stability to Your Dental Implants

by Dr James Lin
Los Gatos Dentist

True or False?

Dental implants require less maintenance compared to natural teeth. *(Answer is at the end of the article)**

If you have a dental implant, you are in good company. According to the American Academy of Implant Dentistry, nearly 3 million Americans have dental implants, a number that is growing by 500,000 annually.

Many of us are aware that Periodontitis (gum disease) occurs when bacteria build up on the base of a natural tooth, and causes destruction to the surrounding gum tissue and jaw bone. Since dental implants are not natural teeth, a common misconception is that they are not susceptible to any harm. However, peri-implantitis can occur when bacteria grow on the base of the implant below the gum line. This causes irreversible damage to the surrounding gum tissue and jaw bone, and the eventual failure of the dental implant.

Signs of Peri-implantitis include:

- Pus emerging around the dental implant
- Bad breath
- Mobility or loss of the dental implant from bone loss
- Red, swollen, and tender gums

Risk factors for Dental Implant failure include:

- Poor Oral Hygiene (sometimes due to a decrease in manual dexterity in the older adult population)
- History of, or active Periodontitis (gum disease)
- Unbalanced bite (misaligned forces due to grinding, natural wear and tear on chewing surfaces)
- Health issues (uncontrolled diabetes, osteoporosis)
- Dry Mouth

Is there anything you can do at home? Yes! Preventative care and maintenance is key! Here are some ideas:

- Use a water flosser to complement flossing
- Use thicker floss such as *Superfloss* under the gums.
- Apply toothpaste onto an interdental brush before cleaning between natural teeth and implants



How your Dentist can help protect your implant:

- Perform bite assessments (over time, teeth shift and wear down, but implants react differently).
- Use specialized instruments (to clean around the implants and surrounding gum tissue).
- Review implant-specific flossing techniques.
- Record measurements of gum pockets and evaluate potential bone loss around implants.
- Periodic x-rays to evaluate bone level around the dental implant.

Dental implants can be a great way to improve your quality of life functionally, medically, and cosmetically. However, implants and the surrounding gums also need to be properly cared for--just like you do with natural teeth.

We are accepting new patients! No insurance? No problem! Ask us about how you can save with our Dental Savings Plan.

Give us a call Monday through Thursday, 8:30am-5pm for any questions or to schedule an appointment. We look forward to serving you!

Sincerely,
James Lin, DMD, FAGD
**Answer: False*

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ASK
the
EXPERT

Dr. Christine Throm, Audiologist
Past President-California
Academy
of Audiology (2018)



A Brief History of Hearing Aids

Christine Throm, Au.D.

Did you know that the first hearing aid prototype was invented over 3 centuries ago?

Today’s hearing devices are incredible: they fit inside of our ears, and they can help restore some lost hearing to us when we can no longer hear clearly. The history of hearing devices is fascinating. If you have hearing aids and have ever been somewhere without them, you may have come to appreciate them to a whole new level.

Hearing Aids: A Brief History

“Ear trumpets,” the first hearing assistive devices, were created in the 18th century. Working as a physical funnel into the ear to amplify sound, the first hearing devices were large, like holding a traffic cone to your ear. This horn-shaped device was developed throughout the 1700’s, though technology for amplification of sound would come later.

Come see the sample we have in our office!

With the nineteenth century came an explosion of modernization, which included both telephones and electricity. This innovative technology was also employed with hearing aids. Thomas Edison’s carbon transmitter made the electrical transmission of sound a reality in 1878. That innovation led to technology in amplification that was later adapted for hearing devices.

1920 brought the invention of the vacuum tube, which granted a more compact size of hearing aid. Now that the technologies of improved frequency and amplified sound were in play, hearing device size was reduced to a small box with an accompanying receiver. Hearing devices were much easier to use at home, but it wasn’t possible to use them in public.

Portable, wearable hearing devices were developed a few years later. The earpiece would be attached by a small wire to a battery and receiver unit, usually worn on the torso or leg. During WWII circuit board technology was developed, which made hearing devices even more portable.

In 1964, Zenith Radio developed hearing devices that were worn behind the ear and by 1996 the digital revolution had modernized hearing aids. Since then, we have seen rapid advancements in technology.

Come see some vintage aids in our office including hand-drawn circuit diagrams!

Now our hearing devices are tiny and nearly invisible, some (when medically appropriate) fitting deep into the ear canal. They can be adjusted discreetly and easily with a smart phone, and 90% of hearing devices are entirely digital. With the rate of technological advancement, we can anticipate only better hearing aid technology in the future. **Your audiologist will help you figure out what is medically appropriate for your lifestyle and hearing loss.**



Resolve to optimize your hearing! If you have even minimal hearing loss, consider hearing aid options. Hearing aids can help to keep your brain active and prevent further hearing loss, so if you have minor hearing loss, hearing aids are a worthy investment to prevent it from progressing.

Los Gatos Audiology is proud to introduce the Oticon Intent™!
Powered by new 4D Sensor technology!

If you already have hearing aids, check out the latest options in smart hearing devices—you may be shocked what the newest hearing aids can do!

Your quality of life may be due for an upgrade – so come in today!

We’re proud to have served Los Gatos, Saratoga, Campbell, Cupertino, San Jose and the entire Bay Area for 50 years!
We’re here to provide the right solution for Your Life, Your Style.



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(on the corner of National and Los Gatos-Almaden Rd.)
www.LosGatosAudiology.com

RESOURCES

For care, services, and general information

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

CALL 211 or visit 211scc.org : Food, Senior Care & Child Care, Counseling, Legal Aid, Housing & more (free, confidential, multi-lingual)

CANCER CAREPOINT
Non-medical support services for those impacted by cancer. 2512 Samaritan Ct., Suite A San Jose, CA 95124 (408) 402-6611 www.cancercarepoint.org

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE NETWORK OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY
1400 Parkmoor Ave., Suite 250, San Jose, CA 95126 (415) 808-4300 / www.uwba.org/get-help

FAIR HOUSING LAW PROJECT - Housing discrimination, mortgage abuse, eviction issues, etc. 152 N. First St. 3rd Floor, San Jose, CA 95111 (408) 280-2470

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF SANTA CLARA
505 West Julian St. San Jose, CA 95110 (408) 275-8770

SANTA CLARA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT
14700 Winchester Blvd, Los Gatos, CA 95032 / 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. / (408) 378-4010
Emergency Response, Fire Prevention, Education & Preparedness. www.sccfd.org



Photo by Hannah Busing on Unsplash

SHRED IT SERVICES
Saratoga Senior Center, Mon.-Fri., 10 a.m.-4 p.m. \$1 per pound, \$12 per Bankers Box. Call (408) 647-9023 for more info.

WEST VALLEY COMMUNITY SERVICES
10104 Vista Dr. Cupertino, CA 95014 (408) 255-8033

OLDER ADULT SERVICES

RYDE (REACH YOUR DESTINATION EASILY) TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM: (408) 892-9739 www.sascc.org/ryde-about

FRIENDLY VOICES- PHONE BUDDIES FOR SENIORS: (650) 395-8017

SOURCEWISE: (408) 350-3200 x 1
LIVE OAK NUTRITION CENTER: (408) 354-0707

SENIOR ADULTS LEGAL ASSISTANCE (SALA): (408) 295-5991
SALA is a non-profit elder law office whose mission is to support older persons in their efforts to live safely, independently,

non-institutionalized and with dignity.

HEALTH INSURANCE COUNSELING & ADVOCACY PROGRAM (HICAP)
Funded by Sourcewise: Call (408) 350-3200, and select option 2.
HICAP is a FREE volunteer-based program from Sourcewise that assists seniors with Medicare as a supplements to Medicare, long-term care and managed care insurance plans.

VTA ACCESS: Office: 8am to 5pm daily / (408) 321-2380 www.vta.org/go/paratransit#accordion-applying-for-vta-access-paratransit-service

MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

NAMI - The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) offers practical experience, support, education, comfort and understanding to anyone concerned about mental illnesses and their treatment in Santa Clara County. Call from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at (408) 453-0400 option 1, or option 4 for after-hour support.

CASSY - Counseling and Support Services for Youth (CASSY) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that partners with Bay Area schools to provide resources and professional, on-campus mental health services to students free of charge, plus staff training on mental health issues, and parent consultations. Learn more at www.cassybayarea.org.

ASIAN AMERICANS FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES - Founded in 1973, AACI serves individuals and families with cultural humility, sensitivity and respect, advocating for and serving the marginalized and ethnic communities in Santa Clara County. 2400 Moorpark Ave., Suite 300, San Jose, CA 95128 / (408) 975-2730 X204

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUPS Offered through Vitas Healthcare
To join, please visit www.vitas.com/family-and-caregiver-support/caregiving/caregiver-support-groups.

GRIEVING SUPPORT GROUPS: REMOTE, VIRTUAL, AND ONLINE Offered through Vitas Healthcare
To join, please visit www.vitas.com/family-and-caregiver-support/grief-and-bereavement/remote-grief-support-groups.
To learn more about Vitas Healthcare support groups, please call 888.804.0387.

Need Support Now?
988 offers 24/7 judgment-free support for mental health, substance use, and more. Text, call, or chat 988.

SOCIAL CENTERS

SARATOGA SENIOR CENTER
19655 Allendale Ave Saratoga, CA 95070 M-F, 10am to 4:30pm (408) 868-1257

SARATOGA ADULT DAY PROGRAM
19655 Allendale Ave Saratoga, CA 95070 10am to 3 pm (408) 868-1254

LOS GATOS ADULT RECREATION CENTER
208 E. Main St. Los Gatos, CA 95030 M-F, 9am to 4pm (408) 354-1514



JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER
14855 Oka Rd, #201 Los Gatos, CA 95032 (408) 358-3636

Resource spotlight - Live Oak Senior Nutrition and Service Center

The Live Oak Senior Nutrition and Service Center, located at 111 Church Street in Los Gatos, is a non-profit organization that has been serving the community since 1974. The center offers several free services for seniors and is open Monday through Friday from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

- Hot Meals.** On average, 91 seniors a day enjoy free hot meals.
- Social Time.** The Center provides a place for seniors to gather and socialize with friends.
- Wellness.** Three wellness classes are offered each week. Chair Yoga,

Functional Posture, Mobility & Balance, and Tai Chi. The Santa Clara County Senior Nutrition Program periodically provides coaching and information focusing on healthy eating habits and lifestyles.

- Entertainment.** We have live music once a month and periodically bring in musicians and theatre teams to entertain the crowd. BINGO is played on the last Thursday of each month. Small gift card prizes are given to the winners.
- Free Groceries.** In

partnership with Second Harvest Food Bank, we offer free groceries 3 days a week. Open-table groceries allow seniors to select the items that best suit their needs and tastes.

- Community Service.** Opportunities for adults, high school students, and special needs kids.

The number of meals provided each weekday has increased from 30 meals per day before the pandemic to 91 meals per day now. However, Santa Clara County only reimburses the Senior Nutrition Center for 75 meals

per day. Due to rising attendance, increasing food prices, and related operating costs, we are projecting a year-end budget deficit of \$47,000. Donations and grants are greatly appreciated and always needed. For every \$100 donated, we can feed 14 people for one day. Visit our website for more information about the Center. www.lgumc.org/live-oak-senior-nutrition-center/.

Resource Spotlights are compiled by the Los Gatos Thrives Foundation, www.lgumc.org.



logatosthrives.org. The LGS 55 Plus Program is located at 208 E Main St, Los Gatos and is a member of the West Valley Service Providers network.

“I think luck is the sense to recognize an opportunity and the ability to take advantage of it... The man who can smile at his breaks and grab his chances gets on.”

- Samuel Goldwyn

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